Patent claims

1.-18. (cancelled)

19. (new) A data communications system, comprising:

a plurality of clients;

a plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices supporting a first data transmission protocol;

a data processing device supporting the first and a second data transmission protocol, wherein the data processing device converts and forwards data to a telephone and/or video conference data processing device such that this data can be used by clients supporting the first and the second data transmission protocol; and

a resource control device, which in cases in which a request cannot be processed by a telephone and/or video conference data processing device, causes another telephone and/or video conference data processing device to take over the request.

20. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the telephone and/or video conference data processing device and the data processing device are arranged in a computer.

21. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 20, wherein the computer is a server.

22. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 20, wherein the computer is a PBX computer.

23. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the second data transmission protocol is an

open, standardized protocol.

24. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the second data transmission protocol is an H.323 or H.225/H.245-based protocol or an SIP-based protocol.

25. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the first data transmission protocol is a proprietary or generic protocol.

26. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the first data transmission protocol is a PCM- or TDM-based protocol.

27. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the first and/or the second data transmission protocol is a TCP/IP-based data transmission protocol.

28. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein clients supporting the first data transmission protocol and clients supporting the second data transmission protocol can jointly hold a telephone and/or video conference with each other simultaneously by using the telephone and/or video conference data processing device.

29. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein one or more of the clients are connected to an Intranet data network.

30. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 29, wherein one or more of the clients are arranged outside the Intranet data network.

31. (new) The data communications system in accordance with

Claim 30, wherein one or more of the clients are connected to a further Intranet data network.

32. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the telephone and/or video conference data processing unit is connected to the Intranet data network.

33. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein a further telephone and/or video conference data processing device supporting the first data transmission protocol is provided which can be used instead of the telephone and/or video conference data processing device.

34. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 33, wherein the further telephone and/or video conference data processing device is connected to the Intranet data network, or wherein the further telephone and/or video conference data processing device is arranged outside the Intranet data network.

35. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 19, wherein an additional telephone and/or video conference data processing device supporting the second data transmission protocol is provided, which can be used instead of the telephone and/or video conference data processing device.

36. (new) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 35, wherein the additional telephone and/or video conference data processing device is connected to the Intranet data network, or wherein the additional telephone and/or video conference data processing device is arranged outside the Intranet data network is connected to a further Intranet data network.

37. (new) A computer adapted be used in a in a data communications system, the computer comprising:

a plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices supporting a first data transmission protocol;

a data processing device supporting both the first, and also a second data transmission protocol, the data processing device converts received data and forwards this data to one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices, so that this data can be used by clients supporting both the first and also the second data transmission protocol; and

a resource control device which in cases in which a request cannot be processed by one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices, causes another of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices to take over the request.

38. (new) A data communications method for use in a data communications system comprising a number of clients, a plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices supporting a first data transmission protocol, a data processing device supporting both the first, and also a second data transmission protocol, and a resource-control device, the method comprising:

converting received data by the data processing device; and

forwarding the data to a telephone and/or video conference data processing device such that this data can be used by clients supporting both the first, and also the second data transmission protocol, wherein, in cases in which a request cannot be processed by the telephone and/or video conference data processing device another telephone and/or video conference data processing device is triggered to take over the request.